

Rare Books

War Relief Work in the '60s Personal News Notes Catalogues, a Sale, Queries

A CITY bookseller has handed *Books and the Book World* a little book entitled *The Philanthropic Results of the War in America*, printed in this city in 1864, which gives a complete history of the lines of work similar to the activities of the Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Y. M. C. A. and kindred organizations at the present time.

The principal agencies of the civil war period were the United States Sanitary Commission and the United States Christian Commission, although there were other bodies, mostly local in character, whose collections were large.

It is pleasant to note that the great Sanitary Fair in Brooklyn yielded a gross return of \$425,000 and a net of \$400,000. To all agencies at work from the beginning of the war to February, 1864, there was contributed \$212,274,259.45.

The little book is filled with interesting details and might well be studied by those who are now working in the same field.

News of the Trade.

Harold Davis of this city, an enthusiastic collector of first editions, has enlisted in the navy.

Books and the Book World is in receipt of a letter from Samuel J. Skoyles of the Museum Art Shop, 1036 Madison avenue, New York, in relation to paper preservation, in which Mr. Skoyles states that as he specializes in that work he has had occasion to make an exhaustive study of it, and has discovered a process to save written or printed matter even when the paper has begun to powder.

Collectors of Americana have long been familiar with the extensive library of the late W. H. Darlington of Pittsburgh, who was the editor of *Christopher Gist's Journal*, printed a few years ago from the manuscript in Mr. Darlington's possession. The library, it has just been announced, has been given to the University of Pittsburgh. As there are many items that duplicate those now in the library of the university, no doubt there will be opportunity for dealers to procure a lot of fine material.

W. J. Campbell of Philadelphia, a bookseller known to nearly every bookish person, has just published a fine bibliography of the work of Benjamin Franklin. Mr. Campbell has for a number of years been collecting the material for this work and there is perhaps no one so well posted on the subject, or better qualified to compile it. The book covers many items that have escaped former lists.

Inspired Verse.

A book dealer of New York has recently had contact with a buyer who evidently did not please him. He sends to *Books and the Book World* the following lines:

"Your books are 'rare'
And fair in price;
He calls them 'cheap,'
He says they're 'nice.'
Your prints are 'scarce,'
(So you are told);
And some of them
Are very old.
He talks about
'Original boards,'
But carefully
His money hoards.
In what 'condition'
Will he be,
When he is old—
103?"

M. L."

What Dealers Are Doing.

Wilberforce Eames has returned from his vacation in the Adirondacks and is again at his desk in the Public Library.

Henry L. Smith, for many years in charge of the rare book business of Charles Scribner's Sons, died recently.

Frank P. Harper will spend the coming season in New York, having closed his house in New Jersey.

George J. Beyer, the print dealer, is now at 1012 Gates avenue, Brooklyn.

Lathrop C. Harper has returned from an extended Western trip. He reports business active and he found some desirable books.

Major William Gordon McCabe of Richmond, Va., equally well known as collector and soldier of the Confederacy, has been in the city for some days in the interest of the Virginia Historical Society, of which he is president.

Albert N. Bicher, the bookseller, is now with the Ordnance Department of the Army, but may be found at his store on Saturdays and Sundays.

A London art dealer who was well known to collectors on this side of the ocean,

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E. C. MACMAHON, 18 W. 52nd St.

Asher Wertheimer, died on August 9 at his home in Eastbourne, England.

W. K. Dart of New Orleans has been in town for some days visiting dealers.

Catalogues Received.

From P. F. Madigan, Bulletin No. 82, containing 102 items. A letter of Gen. Washington addressed to a commissioner for enlistments, in which he advocates the calling into service of all men above 17 and under 50 years of age, is the most interesting letter in the lot, and would seem to be of value to those who are now opposed to the ages at which we are calling soldiers for the present war. There is also a very interesting letter of Ambrose Bierce, on literary matters.

From Robert Cecil MacMahon, 78 West Fifty-fifth street, New York, a catalogue comprising 169 titles of very unusual books.

From Francis Edwards, 83 High street, Marylebone, London, W. 1, No. 382, containing 548 titles. Americana, early printed books, books of hours, books from famous presses, bindings, &c. There are listed forty-four lots of Americana, all very rare, the prices of which are considerably higher than the same items can be had for over here; a fine copy of the *Botticello Dante*, 1481; Breydenbach's *Itinerarium*, 1486, and many other choice and desirable books.

At Auction.

C. F. Libbie & Co., Boston announce to be sold October 2 and 3 a collection of Americana from Rhode Island, including New England town histories, genealogies, material about Indians and the South Sea Islands, newspapers, periodicals, Western history, &c.—1,657 lots.

Replies to Questions.

W. F. H., BROOKLYN.—Your set of the *Irving Life of Washington*, in parts as issued, is worth about \$5.

Mrs. J. F. M., RIDGEWOOD, N. J.—Single volumes from sets are seldom of much value.

J. V. W., HUNSON, N. Y.—If you are quite sure the Hibbert book is annotated by Dickens, it should be worth about \$15. You do not state if it bears his signature in addition to the book plate, in which event it would be worth quite a little more.

The War and Psychical Phenomena

PRIVATE DOWDING was killed by a shell splinter in battle and later was reported to have said through a medium: "Something struck, hard, hard, hard against my neck. Shall I ever lose the memory of that hardness? It is the only unpleasant incident that I can remember." When he came to himself in the world into which he had been snelled and found himself standing outside his body he inquired amazingly: "Where is my body? Surely I am not dead."

In spite of many similar humorous incidents *Psychical Phenomena and the War*, by Hereward Carrington, is a serious examination of the psychical manifestations that have been revealed by the present war.

The first part of the book, entitled *The Psychology of the Soldier*, and dealing with the fighter in the trenches, under artillery fire, during an attack, in pain, shell shock and dreams, shows a profound insight into the curious power that changes a man into a mere fighting unit. After a soldier has been for a while in the trenches, the author tells us that "the lack of all truly intellectual stimulation or companionship tends to reduce the mental activities to their lowest possible level and induce a state of simple childishness." Even thoughts and memories of home and loved ones become vague, and the one dominant idea in the mind of the soldier is to overcome the enemy. We read also that one of the allied armies was obliged to make forced marches for nine days, and that the men were so weakened by fatigue through loss of sleep that they actually slept while on the march. This part of the volume is replete with interesting incidents which will appeal as reasonable even to the most materialistic scientist.

But the last part of the work is concerned with spiritualism, mediums, planchettes, telepathy, automatic writing and photography, apparitions, prophecies and premonitions and will be found difficult for the average person to believe even with the abundance of apparently incontestable evidence it offers.

The author states as his thesis that at death the spirit merely leaves the body and departs to the spirit world, but that through mediums and other channels we can communicate with the spirit.

PSYCHICAL PHENOMENA AND THE WAR. BY HERWARD CARRINGTON. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.

The Latest Brownie Book



PALMER COX, AUTHOR OF "THE BROWNIES AND PRINCE FLORIMEL"

By CONSTANCE MURRAY GREENE

AFTER a silence of five years, Palmer Cox has written another Brownie Book, though it would be better, perhaps, to say that he has drawn another; for it is



the queer, lovable, jolly little pictures that make his books so well beloved. They have become a tradition and a very dear one that we are happy in handing down to our children.

The book is called *The Brownies and Prince Florimel*, and though it is written in prose instead of poetry and differs in some other respects from the rest of the series, we still have the Brownie policeman, the dude, the Chinaman, the sailor and all the old favorites. They have stood the test of the years well; even the war has failed to sadden them.

This is a real story, a fairy, Brownie and demon story combined, about nice people like Prince Florimel and bad ones like Dragonfel, who was not an agreeable man. "If you had known him you would not have liked him. He cheated when he played croquet, and he was always claiming wickets that he never made. He did not go to Sunday school, either. If he had gone, he would not have put a penny in the plate for the heathen. That was the kind of man he was."

Every child should have a Brownie Book. If there is one who hasn't we can say very truly of him:

"He is a naughty boy, I'm sure,
Or else his dear papa is poor."

THE BROWNIES AND PRINCE FLORIMEL. BY PALMER COX. The Century Company. \$1.50.

"Cheero," a Happy Illness

By GORDON B. MOSS.

JANE had rheumatism of the kind known as arthritis. Half a hundred doctors attached almost as many different adjectives to the disease, but all seemed to agree that it was arthritis of some sort. A long round of watering places, specialists, hospitals and sanatoria left Jane a professional invalid—cured but subject to relapses—but with her keen sense of humor intact and her love of the ridiculous undimmed.

In *Cheero* Annie Marion MacLean accomplishes the seemingly impossible in writing a humorous story of Jane's rheumatic adventures, "for the help or at least the entertainment of others who have been or may be caught in the clutches of disease and the medical profession."

Sick-bed folk particularly will enjoy *Cheero*, for:

"There is no sport known to man—not to mention woman—as exciting as getting sick and cured. The chances for recovery are slim—even though one's purse be fat. It is an uneven contest, with the patient on one side and the hospitals and doctors on the other. Still, if the patient has good nerve he may win."

Cheero is not for invalids to whom muscular tension induced by laughter is dangerous or painful. The reviewer knows, because he attempted to read the book while nursing an ailing knee in which spasms of pain were induced by sudden laughter or coughing. He stuck it out gamely until Jane related some hospital adventures and told of a young man from the country who lay desperately ill in an

adjoining room. Then came this passage: "One day he felt better, and smiling weakly said he would get well if he could go home and lie on the grass with his head on spring violets and his feet in the jonquils."

"Oof! Ow! Whiff!" We groaned, giggled and gasped, and hurled the book aside.

"Keep well; but if you get sick, keep happy," admonishes Jane. After being cut and scraped, bathed and baked and incidentally accumulating a complete line of hospital supplies, her opinion of doctors summed up this way:

"The profession of medicine is not a science; it is an art—a lost art."

But doctors, she admits, are good sports.

Cheero is a handy-sized little book, just right to slip into a pocket or knitting bag when going to call upon a sick friend. It is not only for the ailing, however, for it contains much genuine humor that will certainly appeal to the robust.

CHEERO. BY ANNIE MARION MACLEAN. The Woman's Press.

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